



## FINAL REPORT

### ACCESS TO AMENITIES IN MEARS STATE PARK

8/31/2009

1. Describe the access structure (i.e., length, width, location, design, etc.).

*The accessible walkway connects a parking area, bathrooms and concession to Lake Michigan's fishery at the Pentwater Pier. It is 18 feet wide by 570 feet long, and is constructed of concrete and natural clay pavers. A total of 12 barrier-free parking spaces were paved, along with a connecting barrier-free walkway.*

2. How do visitors access the structure (i.e., driving directions to the parking lot, how far is the structure from the parking lot, what connects the parking lot to the structure, etc.)?

*The State Park is located just west of the village of Pentwater. Parking is available within the state park, to which the walkway is connected. Parking is also available at locations along or near the channel walkway, which connects to the walkway at the state park.*

3. What amenities are offered at the access site (e.g., restrooms, benches, barrier free access, handicapped parking, lighting, etc.)?

*Barrier free parking, picnic area, restrooms, benches, and a concession area are provided adjacent to the walkway.*

4. What educational opportunities are offered at the site (e.g., interpretative signs), if any?

*A youth fishing program is offered to introduce our younger audience to Great Lakes fishing.*

5. What species of fish are commonly caught at the site? What months of the year is fishing best for each species?

*The Pentwater Pier provides angling opportunity for yellow perch, smallmouth bass, menominee, and lake whitefish seasonally. There is a good Chinook fishery in the fall and steelhead fishery in the spring,*

6. Does the DNR regularly stock any fish species at or near the site? If so, what species, at what time of year, and how often?

*The DNR annually stocks 7,500 yearling steelhead in the Pentwater River to supplement the natural reproduction.*

7. What tactics do you recommend for catching these species (e.g., small bags, bottom casting, minnows, wobbling plugs, Hot 'n Tots, etc.).

*Fresh steelhead spawn, wigglers, small minnows, and night crawlers.*

8. Where can anglers stay if they want to overnight near the access site (e.g. campgrounds, motels, hotels, B&Bs)

*There are many opportunities to stay in the area. The walkway is within Mears State Park which offers a modern campground. There is private camping, hotels, and Bed and Breakfasts to choose from.*

9. Is there anything else you would want to share with a potential visitor to the access site?

*This project has improved the ability to access fishing in an enjoyable and safe manner for users of all ages and mobility levels.*















